

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCI-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8520

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV/PBOR/MX

SUBJ: BILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEXICO.

REF: A. MEXICO 7842;

B. TORREY-ZWEIFEL OCTOBER 18 TELECON.

1. TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE LEFT WITH MEXICANS OCTOBER 16 IS AS
FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

DURING THE LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT
EL PASO SPONSORED A CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS (FIRST
BINATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AIR CONTAMINATION ON THE BORDER). A
MEXICAN DELEGATION, HEADED UP BY UNDERSECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPROVEMENT, SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, MR. FRANCICO

VIZCAINO MURRAY, ATTENDED THOSE SESSIONS.

AT MR. VIZCAINO MURRAY'S SUGGESTION, A SEPARATE MEETING WAS
HELD WITH UNITED STATES OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS A MEXICAN PROPOSAL
FOR THE FORMATION OF A BINATIONAL UNITED STATES-MEXICAN ENVIRON-
MENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE US-MEXICO BORDER. AT THE CONCLUSION OF
THIS DISCUSSION, THE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AGREED ON THE FOLL-
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OWING:

A. TO ESTABLISH A JOINT WORKING GROUP CHARGED WITH DRAWING UP A PLAN FOR THE STUDY AND EVENTUAL CONTROL OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ALONG THE FULL EXTENT OF THE COMMON BORDER.

B. THE PROPOSED PLAN WOULD INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS SUCH AS AIR AND RIVER POLLUTION, SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, TREATMENT OF MUNICIPAL SEWAGE, USE OF PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES, AND THE NEED FOR A CONTINGENCY PLAN TO DEAL WITH CONCEIVABLE CONTAMINATION FROM OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES.

C. AT THE INVITATION OF MR. VIZCAINO MURRAY, THE JOINT WORKING GROUP WILL MEET IN MEXICO CITY DURING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26, 1973, TO REVIEW THE PLAN WHICH IS TO BE DRAFTED DURING THE INTERIM.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SUGGESTS THAT THE MOST EFFICIENT PROCEDURE FOR ACHIEVING THE DESIRED OBJECTIVE WOULD BE THE FORMATION OF SUB-GROUPS UNDER THE JOINT WORKING GROUP. THESE SUB-GROUPS, WHOSE MEMBERS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVES, BOTH FEDERAL AND REGIONAL, OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, JOINTLY WOULD ASSESS THE POLLUTION PROBLEMS ON THE BOUNDARY AND CONSIDER PROGRAMS AND OTHER MEASURES UNDER WAY TO CONTROL THEM. THEY ALSO WOULD CONSIDER WHAT ADDITIONAL STEPS OR INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE NEEDED TO MAINTAIN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATIVE TO BORDER POLLUTION PROBLEMS. UNQUOTE

2. MEXICAN DELEGATION TO LATE-NOVEMBER MEETINGS OF JOINT WORKING GROUP ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE HEADED UP BY UNDERSECRETARY VIZCAINO MURRAY. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT IF HE CAN DO SO, DR. EDUARDO ECHEVERRIA ALSO WILL PARTICIPATE. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT MEXICAN SECTION OF IBWC WILL BE REPRESENTED, AND ANY PARTICIPATION FROM FONSECRETARIAT LIKELY TO BE IN QUASI OBSERVER STATUS. EMBASSY WILL NOTIFY DEPARTMENT WHEN COMPOSITION OF MEXICAN DELEGATION FURTHER DEFINED.
MCBRIDE

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